

## Remarks

Claims 1 And 4-9, As Amended, Are Patentable Over U.S. Patent No. 4,638,793 Of Therkorn.

Claims 1, 3-9, 13-15 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,638,793 of Therkorn.

The Therkorn patent describes a therapeutic treatment table which includes a carrier 12 to which the upper end of a curved member 16 is pivotally attached. A planar support table 14 is attached to the lower end of curved member 16 and is adapted to be pivoted between a position in which the support table is horizontal (shown in solid lines in Figure 2) to a position in which the support table is inclined at an angle of about 45° (shown in dashed lines). Three carriages (34, 44 and 36) are mounted so as to slide along the frame of support table 14 independently of each other. Calf support 30 is pivotally attached to slide carriage 34, and back rest 32 is pivotally attached to slide carriage 36. Between slide carriage 34 and slide carriage 36 is located slide carriage 44 which "serves as support surface for the seat region" (as shown in Figure 2).

Hydraulic cylinder 50 is adapted to move slide carriage 34 with respect to support table 14 and hydraulic cylinder 58 is adapted to pivot calf support 30 with respect to carriage 34. Similarly, hydraulic cylinder 86 is adapted to move slide carriage 36 with respect to support table 14 and hydraulic cylinder 78 is adapted to pivot back rest 32 with respect to carriage 36. Carriage 44 can be fixed with respect to support table 14 at any of three positions indicated by pin holes 48.

Although the Therkorn table has some components that are similar in some respects to the claimed components of Applicant's therapeutic exercise device, including calf support 30 that is pivotally attached to slide carriage 34 and back rest 32 that is pivotally attached to slide carriage 36, the Therkorn table does not have *a carriage comprising two sections that are pivotally*

*attached to each other, each of which is adapted to support at least a portion of the body of a patient*, as is required by Applicant's claims 1-9, as amended. Furthermore, the Therkorn reference does not render such structure obvious, because its three carriage sections, each of which is adapted to support a portion of the body, must all move independently of each other along the support table in order to provide "body extension" by stretching the joints of the spinal column.

For the reasons set forth herein, Applicant requests that this rejection of his claims 1 and 4-9 be withdrawn, and that claims 1 and 4-9, as amended, be allowed.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of his claims are patentable over the cited references.

Applicant requests, therefore, that the §102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 4-9 be withdrawn, and that claims 1-9, as amended, be allowed in addition to the previously allowed claims 10-20. If the Examiner has any questions about this Response, she is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,



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